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## Denies Reported Support for Raiders into Nicaragua

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras

U.S. Ambassador John D. Negroponte today denied a Newsweek report that the United States is sponsoring a covert military operation aimed at overthrowing Nicaragua's leftist government.

"My country only is interested in achieving the pacification of Central America," Negroponte told the Honduran government television service.

However, The New York Times reported from Washington today that senior Reagan administration officials admitted the CIA is providing money and military equipment to paramilitary groups of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras for hit-and-run raids into Nicaragua.

The officials said the purpose was "to harass but not to overthrow the Nicaraguan government," The Times said.

The Newsweek report said the alleged military operations first were aimed at restricting the flow of arms to El Salvador but under Negroponte's direction developed into an attempt to harass and undermine the Nicaraguan government.

"That article has many errors," Negroponte said. "I have the impression that it was written by someone who is not in favor of our policies here in Honduras and in Central America.

"As for me personally, I have maintained a policy of support for the pacifist plan of the Honduran government. I also have managed to collaborate with the programs of development and of moderate military aid to Honduras, in agreement to what was established by the official sector of this country."